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RIPPONDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1943. You will have received from the Ministry of Health a copy of Circular 10/44 pointing out that the report should be again on the lines of my 1942 report, certain things being omitted for the time being.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births. - The total number of births belonging to the district, as provided by the Registrar-General was 68 - 36 males and 32 femaleses- equal to a rate of 13.8 per 1000 population which compares with a rate for England and Wales of 16.5 and a local rate in the previous year of 16.9. Four of the births were illegitimate. In my four quarterly reports for the year the total births given was 20 which shows that more than two- thirds of the births took place outside the district, chiefly in the Halifax Hospitals.

Deaths.- The total deaths, corrected for inward and outward transfers, was 79 - 44 males and 35 females - giving a death rate of 15.0 per 1000. The England and Wales rate was 12.1 and the local rate in 1942 was 13.8. There was only one death under one year, (aged 2 days in fact, due to intracranial haemorrhage, in Hospital). The Infantile Mortality rate was, therefore, only 14.7 per 1000 live births whilst the England and Wales rate was 49. The next age at death was 2 years, a child who died of Tubercular Meningitis ; next one aged 39 who died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one of 42 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one of 46 also of Tuberculosis. About half of the deaths were over 70 years and the remainder mostly in their sixties.

As to the causes of death notable were 7 Cancer, 3 Pulmonary and 2 Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis ; 2 Diabetes; 2 Pneumonia 6 Bronchitis; 25 Heart Disease; 7 Intra- cranial Vascular lesions; 5 Nephritis.

There were 2 Still Births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.- A total of 133 cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever cases numbered 82. Thirty seven of these occurred in the Rishworth School (a Public School for boys) and were all removed to Northowram Isolation Hospital by the School Authorities. 27 of the others were sent to Hospital by myself. The largest number of Scarlet Fever cases occurred in November and December, the others being distributed throughout the year.

34 cases of Whooping Cough were notified, chiefly in March, April, may and June.

14 cases of Measles were notified, mostly in January, February and March.

One case of Acute Primary Pneumonia and two cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever were included.

Again the district was free of Diphtheria. There was no case of Puerperal Pyrexia. Chickenpox was prevalent.

Tuberculosis. Three cases of Pulmonary and two of Non- Pulomnary forms were notified. 5 cases died and the numbers on my Register at the end of the year were 12 Pulmonary and 13 Non- Pulomary.

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Diphtheria Prophylasis. This is the duty of the Local Authority but the state of affairs is rather anomalous as between County and Local Authority the majority being now immunised by the Officers of the County Council. During the year 1943, 156 under 5 years of age and 243 from 5 - 15 years were done. I have to send a six monthly return to the Minister of Health and have to get most of the figures from the County M.O.H. I estimate the number of Children immunised at the end of the year as nearly 90%.

Scabies. 36 cases of scabies were treated at the Clinic with satisfactory results.

With the assistance of your Sanitary Inspector I have completed Table C, but I think it is necessary to mention only a few facts at the present time.

36 inspections were made during the year for Nuisances only(not including Housing Inspections). All the nuisances found viz; 20 plus one carried on from the previous year were abated by Informal action.

A new Sludge Bed has been provided at the Ripponden Wood Sewage Disposal Works.

There are 1160 Water Closets and 340 Privies and other forms of closet in the district. Some improvement in this respect will be necessary when the opportunity permits.

Refuse is collected throughout the district and disposed of by Tipping at the annual cost of £586. 11. 4.

Water Supply is satisfactory. 15 more houses received a supply during the year. The water is soft but is treated at its source and the Plumbo - Solvening is kept low.

More cowsheds, and farm houses in which the milk is dealt with, will have to be inspected and improvements effected.

The district contains many good and comparatively new Dwelling Houses but there are quite a number not fit for human habitation. The more one sees of ~~the~~ houses the more one is convinced that Housing, from a health point of view, ought to have first consideration after the War.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

A. J. W. Stephens
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

10/8/44.